



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

# RESOLUTION

## VOTE! OR LIBERTY IS HISTORY

WHEREAS, Americans will have the opportunity on November 2, 2004 to exercise their democratic freedom to vote for the President of the United States, as well their representatives to Congress, state and local officials, and on a variety of statewide and local ballot initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote of every American citizen is among the core values and the basic liberties that this nation is built upon; and guaranteed in the United States Constitution to every American 18 years and older; and

WHEREAS, the role of educators should be expanded to the 4 R's – Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic, and Responsibility; and that every student needs to learn the importance of our democracy, what it took to gain our liberties and freedom, and how we need to take that responsibility seriously; and

WHEREAS, several major elections over the past 20 years have been extremely close, illustrating that every single vote counts, citizens need to take the responsibility to register to vote, learn and understand the candidates' positions, and understand the various ballot issues, then go vote; and

WHEREAS, if our free society is to remain free, every citizen must be an involved participant in the democratic process; and if we fail to do so, the liberty Americans cherish could become history; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education sees a role by every public school in Michigan to educate, engage, and motivate students to know, understand, and actively participate in the democratic process; to preserve and strengthen our democracy; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education urge every adult to register and vote, and every public school to encourage their 18-year-old students to register to vote by October 4 at their local clerk's office and actively engage students at every grade level with the electoral process and its impact on our democracy, the liberty and freedom we possess, and the great personal costs to earn, defend, and preserve our great democracy.

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Adopted September 14, 2004

Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

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